WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for teaching expository writing comprising:

selecting a theory of discourse analysis for teaching writing;

segmenting a text into at least one text building units based on the selected theory of discourse;

analyzing each text building unit according to the selected theory of discourse.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one text building units are combined into a structural representation of discourse consistent with the selected theory of discourse.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the selected theory of discourse analysis is selected from the list of at least Discourse Structures Theory, Linguistic Discourse Model, Rhetorical Structure Theory, Systemic Functional Grammar and Tagmemics.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising, displaying the segmented text.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, displaying the analyzed text.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising, displaying the structural representation of discourse.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising, identifying user designated important concepts in the text.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising, generating a summary of text based on the selected theory of discourse.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising, determining coverage of user designated important concepts.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining coverage compares user designated concepts to the summary.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein the structural representation of discourse is a tree, and wherein the segmenting is performed automatically and wherein the structural representation is displayed.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the segmenting is performed automatically.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis is performed automatically.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein summary generation comprises the following steps:

identifying the root node and assigning it a rank;

recursively selecting each remaining child node;

for each child node that is a coordination node or a binary node assigning the child node the rank of the parent;

for each child node that is a subordination node;

assigning to the subordinating node, the rank of the parent;

assigning to the subordinated node, the rank of the parent incremented by 1;

15. The method of claim 8 wherein a summary is displayed by the steps:

selecting a summary level p for a structural representation of discourse having a lowest level m and a highest level n so that $m \leq p \leq n$;

walking the nodes of the tree in order of insertion up to the level p;

displaying the nodes traversed.

16. A system for teaching expository writing comprising:

an input device;

a display device;

a memory;

a segmenting circuit;

an analyzing circuit;

a controller that selects a theory of discourse from the input device, segments a text received form the memory to create at least one text building unit according to the selected theory of discourse, analyzes the at least one text building unit according to the selected theory of discourse and displays the text building units.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising a reviewing circuit that reviews the analyzed text building units for consistency with the selected theory of discourse.

18. The system of claim 16, further comprising a structural representation building circuit to create a structural representation of the text building units according to the selected theory of discourse.

19. The system of claim 16, further comprising a concept highlighting circuit to highlight user designated important concepts.

20. The system of claim 16, further comprising a summary generating circuit that generates a summary based on the selected theory of discourse.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the summary generating circuit identifies the root node and assigns it a rank; recursively selects each remaining child node and for each child node that is a coordination node or a binary node, assigns each remaining child node the rank of the parent; for each child node that is a subordination node, assigns the rank of the parent to the subordinating node and the rank of the parent + 1 to the subordinated node.

22. The system of claim 20, further comprising a concept comparator circuit.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the concept comparator circuit provides a ratio of words from the user designated important concepts that are identified in the summary.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein the structural representation is a tree structure.